

1 _____ JOINT RESOLUTION NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DESIGNATE AN APPROPRIATE INTERIM
6 COMMITTEE OR ASSIGN SUFFICIENT STAFF RESOURCES TO STUDY WAYS TO PROVIDE HEALTH
7 CARE COVERAGE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

8
9 WHEREAS, rising health care costs are detrimental to stable lifestyles and the well-being of families;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, health care costs and health insurance rates are increasing above the rate of inflation; and

12 WHEREAS, rising health insurance costs have a significant impact on the overall personnel and salary
13 budgets of school districts; and

14 WHEREAS, because of the increased cost, many school districts in Montana no longer offer insurance
15 benefits to their employees and many employees who have insurance through their school district have dropped
16 dependents from coverage because of the costs; and

17 WHEREAS, some school districts have been able to operate highly successful self-funded insurance
18 programs; and

19 WHEREAS, the 58th Legislature considered two pieces of legislation that attempted to address the
20 health insurance problems faced by most school districts in Montana but was unable to agree on a solution.

21
22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
23 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

24 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to
25 section 5-5-217, MCA, or to direct sufficient staff resources to conduct a study of ways to provide health
26 insurance coverage to school districts, including but not limited to:

27 (1) a statewide public school risk pool;

28 (2) a multitiered program; and

29 (3) any other approaches to providing health insurance coverage considered appropriate.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the interim committee or the staff designated to conduct the study

1 seek the participation and input of the Department of Administration, the Office of Public Instruction,
2 representatives of educational organizations and school districts, representatives of school districts with
3 self-funded health insurance plans, health benefit plan administrators, and any other appropriate individuals or
4 entities.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be
6 presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
8 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2004.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
10 comments, or recommendations, be reported to the 59th Legislature.

11 - END -